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*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

Jeff Harrison

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Write them up and send them in to *Trail & Landscape*.

Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection?
Are natural areas around your home threatened? Let us know.

If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form — typed, written, printed or painted!

Welcome, New Members

Lois Addison & Dorothy
Richardson
Susan R. Ashby & Family
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Bashaw
F. M. Brigham
Anne Denison Brown
W. Richard Buell
Anne & Alastair Campbell
Martha Caskey & Family
Jean-Pierre Cheff
Catherine Cousineau & Family
F. James Cripwell & Family
Rosie Cusson & Family
M. Jean de Chantal
Stan Dee
Thomas Dent & Family
Marie Gibson & Family
C. Griffiths
Claude F. Haridge
James & Eileen Inrig
Sally Jorgensen & Family
Leota L. Kenney & Family
Robert E. King & Family
Raymond J. Knowles & Family
Danna J. Leaman & Family
Viviane A. Legault
Annabelle C. Manchip & Family

M. & M. J. Marchand
Leonard & Heidi Martin
Blair M. McGugan
Jean E. McKibbon
Giuliana A. Meller
Teresa O'Donovan
Joan & Michael Oliver
Mr. J. Ough & Family
Monique Poirier
Patricia H. Richardson
William J. Robertson & Family
Dorothy C. Rogers
Sylvie S. R. Roy & Family
Mati A. Sauks
N. E. M. Smith
Ross A. Smith
Mopsy W. Stewart
Ms Mary C. Sullivan
L. H. Thorleifson
Keith M. Torrie
Saskia E. Van Diggelen
Bill Whillans & Family
Nanette M. Whitwam
Albert E. Woods & Family
Florence Woolner
Diane M. Wouters & Family

Other Areas

Sheila Arthur
Montreal, Quebec

Brian F. Kelley
Pullman, Washington

Lawrence L. Master
Boston, Massachusetts

David McCorquodale
Calgary, Alberta

J. Webber & J. Kaiser
Mississauga, Ontario

*Doreen Watler,
Chairman,
Membership Committee*

April 1, 1990

1989 OFNC Awards and the 1990 Soirée

Peter Hall

Bill Gummer, Chairman,
Awards Committee,
and committee members

Photographs by Tony Beck

Club members gathered again at the Unitarian Church for a little wine and cheese and some good cheer in late April. The unseasonably hot weather allowed the 135 or so attendees to mingle on the balcony overlooking the Ottawa River as well as in the hall.

Members of Eileen Evans' refreshment group and of the Excursions and Lectures Committee had everything in readiness for the evening. (Credit should be given where it is due: the list of helpers included Robina Bennett, Vera Bentley, Ellaine Dickson, Libby Fox, Barbara Hurt, Valerie King, Rick Leavens, Philip Martin, Joan Morfitt, Kim Morgan, Mickey Narraway, Catherine O'Keefe, and Jean Vallent.)

While members chatted and renewed acquaintances, two tables set up to catch their attention delivered more serious messages. One, run by the Martin family, enlisted support for the Baillie Birdathon. The other was a display outlining the progress of the OFNC Wildlife Garden and soliciting volunteers. Both had good success.

Macoun Field Club members again had their display space filled with their labours. This year, the first prize went to Rebecca Danard for her display on edible wild plants, Melanie Lussier took second prize for her display on the Downy Woodpecker, and Roger Gaertner's display on the vegetation of Upper Duck Island won third prize. Once again the Nature Canada Bookshop donated the prizes.

In the main hall, club displays of artwork and photographs were featured. Members cast their ballots for their favourite photograph (each was identified by a number only). The winning photo was of a Great Egret at Point Pelee taken by Harry Thomson. Harry received a print of a Yellow-bellied Marmot by Barry Flahey, noted Canadian wildlife artist. Honourable mentions went to Carolyn Molson and Tony Beck.

Awards

As usual at the annual soirée, the official club awards were presented. Based on nominations received and on Awards Committee recommendations, Council approved the granting of OFNC awards to the following individuals. Full citations for these awards will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

Honorary Member

This year, Dr. A. J. (Tony) Erskine of the Canadian Wildlife Service was made an honorary member. Tony Erskine joined the club in 1968. He was on Council from 1971 to 1977 and was recording secretary for four years. Since 1975 he has been an associate editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, responsible for ornithology. Tony has served with equal effectiveness under both Lorraine Smith and Francis Cook; both editors have acknowledged his major contribution to the journal's direction, standards and content. Tony now lives in New Brunswick and is involved in the preparation of the co-operative Breeding Bird Survey (Canada wide) and the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas. His name appears on more than 200 papers, notes and reviews in a great variety of publications, including both *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and *Trail & Landscape*. Regrettably, Tony was unable to be present at the soirée.



Service Award

The Service Award went to **Joyce Reddoch** (above), who had recently completed 10 years as editor of *Trail & Landscape*, bringing it to its current state of excellence. Her strong input into other club activities, especially the Conservation Committee, of which she is a founding member, was also recognized.

Member of the Year Award

Deirdre Furlong received the Member of the Year Award. She has brought the Education and Publicity Committee back to a valuable level of activity. Club displays have been greatly improved and Deirdre has always ensured that they were adequately manned at a large number of venues. Requests for speakers and club participation at many functions are again being successfully met, thanks to Deirdre's efforts.



Deirdre Furlong (*right*) receiving the Member of the Year Award from President Jeff Harrison.



President's Prize

President Jeff Harrison presented the President's Prize to **Michael Murphy** (*right*) for his outstanding commitment to many club activities. Michael was deeply involved in the work of three committees as well as wrote the new conservation *Greenline* supplement to *Trail & Landscape*. Michael has also spent a great deal of his time representing the OFNC at numerous public meetings dealing with conservation matters.

Conyza ramosissima, Another New Weed in the Ottawa District

Stephen J. Darbyshire

Most naturalists interested in plants of the Ottawa area are familiar with the ubiquitous weed known as Canada Fleabane, Horseweed, Butterweed or Fireweed (*Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronquist, = *Erigeron canadensis* L.). An aggressive annual weed, it occurs anywhere the soil surface is disturbed and bare (or with bare patches), such as agricultural fields, roadsides, gardens, construction sites, and vacant lots. Canada Fleabane is judged to be one of the world's major weeds (Holm et al. 1979) because of its prevalence in agricultural fields throughout much of the temperate world. Like many successful weed species, Canada Fleabane is highly variable in size and growth form under changing environmental conditions, such as light intensity, nutrient availability and competition.

In his flora of North America, André Michaux (1803) described *Erigeron divaricatus* from Illinois, noting its similarity to Canada Fleabane (Figures 1 to 4). Subsequently, Cronquist (1943) provided the new name *Conyza ramosissima* Cronquist (*Conyza divaricata* had been previously used by Sprengel to apply to another plant and, under the rules of botanical nomenclature, cannot be used for Michaux's plant). Although quite similar, particularly to depauperate forms of Canada Fleabane, *Conyza ramosissima* can be distinguished based on the characters given in Table 1.

Several environmental factors affecting individual plants of Canada Fleabane can induce growth forms with features similar to *C. ramosissima*. These factors are particularly effective if applied in combination (Figures 5 to 8). Environmental stress generated by low nutrients and competition can cause dwarfing of plants (Figures 5 to 7). Shade causes etiolation, dwarfing and reduction in inflorescence (flowering part of the stem) size (Figure 6). Decapitation through mowing or herbivory will cause a lack of apical dominance in the main stem of

Figure 1 (opposite). *Conyza ramosissima* specimen from Ottawa.

Figure 2 (opposite). *Conyza ramosissima* specimen from Presqu'île Provincial Park.

Figure 3 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from the Cornwall area (J. M. Gillett 8087, DAO 584221) showing typical growth form.

Figure 4 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from Rainy River (C. E. Garton 9071, DAO 584219) showing a common growth form.

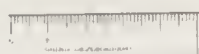
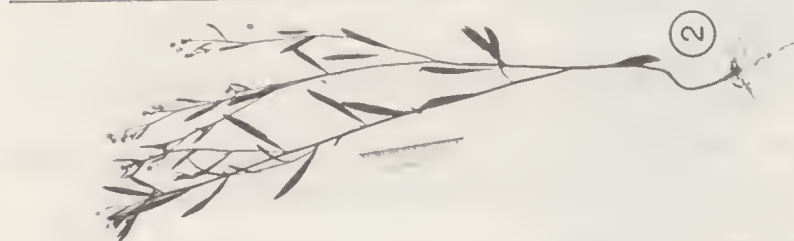
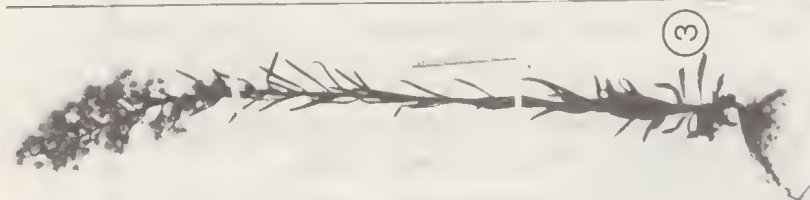
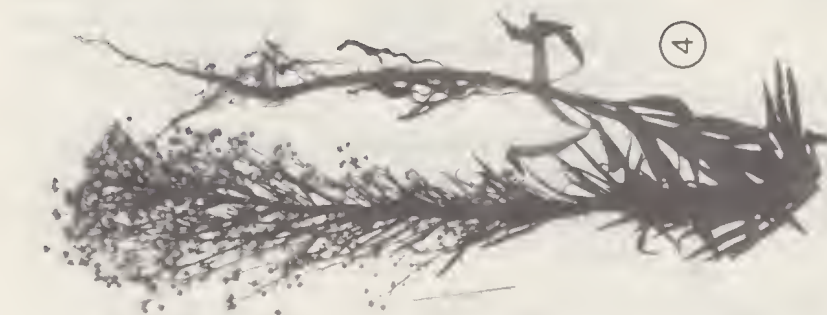


Table 1. Distinguishing characteristics of *Conyza* species in Ottawa (Fernald 1950, Gleason 1952, Gleason and Cronquist 1963).

Character	<i>C. canadensis</i>	<i>C. ramosissima</i>
Stems	central axis evident; erect with no major branching; glabrous or spreading hirsute	no central axis; diffusely branched from near the base; cinereous strigose
Lower leaves	oblanceolate to spatulate; spatulate; ≥ 3 mm wide	lanceolate to linear; < 3 mm wide
Inflorescence	densely flowered terminal panicle	diffuse, solitary heads scattered
Flower receptacle	1.2 – 2.5 mm broad	0.5 – 1 mm broad
Flower rays	white or pinkish (minute)	purplish (minute)

Table 2. Specimens of *Conyza ramosissima* from Canada at the herbarium of the Biosystematics Research Centre (DAO).

Ontario, Ottawa, residence near Rideau River, un-mown front lawn
S. J. Darbyshire & J. E. Darbyshire
17 August 1984

[A duplicate specimen of this collection deposited at the herbarium of the Canadian Museum of Nature (CAN)]

Ontario, Northumberland County, Presqu'île Provincial Park, 2809 48745
30N\13, 44° 00' N, 77° 44' W, South end of beach growing in wet sand
D. G. Cuddy 2494
17 August 1978

Figure 5 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from Gatineau Park (J. M. Gillett 14252, DAO 584222) showing growth in the nutrient-poor conditions of a gravel pit.

Figure 6 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from Mount Orford (A. Legault 8404, DAO 584218) showing dwarfing caused by shade.

Figure 7 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from Pinery Provincial Park (L. O. Gaiser 3098, DAO 170692) showing profuse branching due to loss of apical dominance (through mowing) and dwarfing.

Figure 8 (opposite). *Conyza canadensis* specimen from Dundas County (J. M. Gillett & R. L. Gutteridge 8144, DAO 584220) showing profuse branching due to loss of apical dominance.



5



6



7



8

C. canadensis, resulting in multiple lateral rebranching (Figures 7 to 8). Such environmental effects can generally be ruled out by careful examination of the plant in question.

Two specimens of *C. ramosissima* (Table 2; Figures 1 and 2) are at the herbarium of the Biosystematics Research Centre, Agriculture Canada (DAO) (herbarium acronyms follow Holmgren et al. (1981)) and appear to be the only records for Canada (Scoggan 1980). Both specimens at DAO were annotated by Arthur Cronquist in 1989. The label data on my collection are rather incomplete and incorrect, as the plant was actually collected from the neglected front lawn of an apartment building on Lenore Place in Vanier, not far from the St. Patrick Street bridge (over the Rideau River).

This inconspicuous addition to our flora will no doubt continue to be an overlooked weed. The disparate records suggest that it has already been established for some years without detection.

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Backyard Bird Banding 1988-89

Patricia J. Narraway

The bird-banding station is a back yard in Ottawa West, approximately 15 m square, located one block west of a four-lane street (Woodroffe Avenue), one block north of a four-lane highway (the Queensway) and two blocks south of a four-lane street (Carling Avenue), with quiet streets stretching away to the west. The birds were trapped exclusively with three fowling nets. The banding area is watched at all times from the house in case the neighbourhood cats decide to challenge an alert, conscientious dog. Because this station began operation in October of 1982 and species caught tend to occur in either winter or summer, the banding year covers the period from October 1 to September 30.

Several small suspended feeders are maintained year-round with a limited amount of grain spread on the ground for Mourning Doves. The yard is planted with a few berry bushes and *no sprays are ever used on grass, shrubs or gardens*. The "busyness" of chickadees, siskins and finches no doubt has some influence on the health of both shrubs and gardens.

It is interesting that few House Sparrows are ever seen in the yard, let alone netted. Perhaps they are more timid than the resident chickadees and the carefree siskins; both species are often retrapped and, when released, continue on to the feeders with no apparent distress.

The highlight of late fall 1988 was the first banding of a Fox Sparrow (in October). A good number of House Finches, Slate-colored Juncos and Black-capped Chickadees¹ made October 1988 a bit busier than past years. A total of 4,411 birds was banded from October 1, 1988, to September 30, 1989, at this station. The nets were opened, weather permitting, at dawn most days during June, July and August. Over 2,400 birds, mostly hatch-year House Finches, were banded in these three months.

As usual, the station was very quiet throughout the winter of 1988/89. Quantity feeders will be installed if birds show up. Only a small charm of 12 American Goldfinches visited us faithfully almost daily. Their numbers increased nicely in April 1989 with a total of 580 birds banded by the end of September 1989. This represents 13.1% of the year's total birds banded.

The Pine Siskins appeared in late February 1989 with the first hatch-year bird banded on May 16th. They continued to appear in good numbers through to July and finally moved off in August, with a bumper crop of 1,623 birds banded, representing 36.7% of the year's total. There were no overt deformities noted among these birds.

A few House Finches were caught April through June, with the first hatch year bird banded on May 22nd. They continued to appear through the end of September for a total of 1,891 birds banded, representing 42.8% of the year's total. This percentage indicates still increasing numbers of this species, at least at this station. There were 11 birds noted with overt deformities, including sealed eyes, knobs in the nares and on top of the skull, and twisted, incomplete lower mandibles. Is 11 out of 1,891 the normal ratio for this species? Is it peculiar to birds at this backyard? Curious! (See similar totals in siskins.)

¹Common names used throughout this report are the only ones accepted by the North American Bird Banding Offices.

Table 1. Comparison of a few species as a percentage of the total banded since the station started.

Species	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
House Finch	0.0	0.0	2.0	7.2	10.2	36.2	42.8
Pine Siskin	0.0	16.7	37.2	20.0	14.9	21.8	36.7
American Goldfinch	2.2	2.1	21.3	7.4	4.6	3.2	13.1
Black-capped Chickadee	9.2	6.9	0.6	1.3	2.6	0.7	1.0
Slate-colored Junco	5.8	10.3	1.6	4.9	3.3	3.7	1.2
Common Redpoll	0.0	9.7	6.6	7.2	45.9	21.3	0.2
American Robin	7.0	2.3	1.4	1.0	2.1	1.0	0.4
Total banded	1,836	562	3,070	1,767	719	1,671	4,421

Table 2. Highlights of foreign retraps — birds banded elsewhere and recaptured and released here.

Band Number	Species	Trapped	Banded	Where Banded
174079927	Pine Siskin	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Meadville, Pennsylvania
181034093	Pine Siskin	Mar 1989	Feb 1988	Fergus, Ontario

Table 3. Birds banded here and recaught elsewhere. Both birds were cat kills.

Band Number	Species	Banded	Reported	Where captured
133174752	Cedar Waxwing	Aug 1985	Feb 1988	Grove Hill, Alabama
202156776	House Finch	Oct 1988	May 1989	Walsh Ave., Ottawa

Table 4. "Old faithfuls" — birds banded and retrapped at this station at least a year later.

Band Number	Species	Banded	Retrapped
172046281	American Goldfinch	Apr 1985	May 1989
201086060	House Finch	Aug 1985	Sep 1989
129390313	Mourning Dove	Jun 1985	Apr 1989
173069295	American Goldfinch	Sep 1985	Oct 1988
175013873	Black-capped Chickadee	Jul 1986	Oct 1988
091258106	Black-capped Chickadee	Apr 1987	Apr 1989
201094871	House Finch	Aug 1987	Oct 1988
175048417	Black-capped Chickadee	Jul 1987	Apr 1989
135123869	Song Sparrow	Sep 1987	May 1989
201199295	House Finch	Aug 1988	Aug 1989
206156609	House Finch	Aug 1988	Aug 1989
206156736	House Finch	Aug 1988	Aug 1989
181064111	American Goldfinch	Aug 1988	Aug 1989
181064058	Pine Siskin	Jun 1988	Aug 1989
181064036	American Goldfinch	Jun 1988	Aug 1989
181030980	American Goldfinch	May 1988	Aug 1989
092299517	American Robin	Sep 1988	Sep 1989
202156681	House Finch	Sep 1988	Sep 1989
181064146	Black-capped Chickadee	Sep 1988	Sep 1989

Table 5. Summary of banding year October 1, 1988, to September 30, 1989.

Species	Total number banded	Percent- age	Species	Total number banded	Percent- age
American Kestrel ¹	5	0.11	Eastern Phoebe	1	0.02
Mourning Dove	7	0.16	Tree Swallow	10	0.23
Downy Woodpecker	5	0.11	Black-capped	43	0.97
Yellow-shafted	1	0.02	Chickadee		
Flicker			Red-breasted	1	0.02
Least Flycatcher	4	0.09	Nuthatch		

Table 5 (continued). Summary of banding year October 1, 1988, to September 30, 1989.

Species	Total number banded	Percent- age	Species	Total number banded	Percent- age
House Wren ²	1	0.02	Canada Warbler	1	0.02
Golden-crowned			Northern Cardinal	2	0.05
Kinglet	1	0.02	American Tree	1	0.02
Eastern Bluebird	4	0.09	Sparrow		
Swainson's Thrush	1	0.02	Chipping Sparrow	18	0.41
Hermit Thrush	2	0.05	Fox Sparrow	1	0.02
American Robin	16	0.36	Song Sparrow	31	0.70
Cedar Waxwing	5	0.11	White-throated	4	0.09
European Starling	7	0.16	Sparrow		
Warbling Vireo	5	0.11	White-crowned	2	0.05
Red-eyed Vireo	5	0.11	Sparrow		
Tennessee Warbler	3	0.07	Slate-colored Junco	55	1.24
Nashville Warbler	6	0.14	Red-winged	19	0.43
Northern Parula	1	0.02	Blackbird		
Yellow Warbler	8	0.18	Common Grackle	6	0.14
Myrtle Warbler	8	0.18	Brown-headed	5	0.11
Magnolia Warbler	3	0.07	Cowbird		
Blackpoll Warbler	2	0.05	Baltimore Oriole	3	0.07
Black-throated	1	0.02	Purple Finch	8	0.18
Green Warbler			House Finch	1,891	42.77
Western Palm	2	0.05	Common Redpoll	8	0.18
Warbler			Pine Siskin	1,623	36.71
Black-and-white	1	0.02	American	580	13.12
Warbler			Goldfinch		
Ovenbird	2	0.05			
Northern Waterthrush	1	0.02	Total Species (50)	4,421	99.98
Mourning Warbler	1	0.02			

¹Five American Kestrel nestlings and four Eastern Bluebird nestlings at Wickware's Nursery, Dunrobin, Ontario.

²One House Wren nestling at 3059 Otterson Drive, Ottawa, Ontario.

Send Us Your Extras!

The OFNC Education and Publicity Committee needs your help. If you have any favourite good photographs of natural history subjects you would like to contribute for use in our public display, please contact us right away. Just call Deirdre Furlong at 728-4582 for further details. Thanks!

A Parliament of Birds

Merrill Smith

It has often been remarked that birders tend to be listers. I, for example, keep a life list, annual lists and trip lists. My wife keeps a backyard list and an Ottawa list, and she used to keep a daily list — all fairly standard up to this point — but an election in Australia a few years ago got me started on a different kind of list. The election pitted the Labour Party under Bob Hawke against the Liberal Party under Andrew Peacock (true birders will have no difficulty figuring out who won) and got me working on a list of potential parliamentarians with bird names.

The advantage of this kind of list is that there is no need to undertake arduous field trips, suffer insect attacks or freeze on Christmas bird counts.

Primus inter pares among the candidates on this list must be Dr. David Bird or perhaps Senator Florence Bird. (All names belong to real people, some living, some long since dead.)

Dr. David Bird	Gary Gander	Captain Robert Redhead
Senator Florence Bird	Dale Goldhawk	Jerome Robbins
Joseph Brant	Denis Herron	Lindy Ruff
Charles Bullfinch	Dr. Paul Jay	Kurt Sanderling
Dorothy Bunting	Oscar Junco	Senator Herb Sparrow
Janet Bustard	Tom Kite	Marlyn Starling
David Canary	Kenny Loon	Don Swallow
Douglas Cardinal	Dean Martin	Donald Swann
Stephen Crane	Florence Nightingale	Jeff Teal
John David Crow	Jean Claude Parrot	Robert Weaver
David Duck	Peter Partridge	Larry Whiteduck
Mike Eagles	Walter Pidgeon	Cathy Wildgoose
Peter Finch	Anthony Quayle	George Woodcock
David Flicker	Harry Raven	Christopher Wren

This exercise could no doubt be carried out in other languages, for instance Vautour (vulture) and Rossignol (nightingale) are French surnames, while Adler (eagle), Strauss (ostrich) and Fink (finch) are German.

One could also make lists of mammal-people (Francis Fox, Walter Wolf), fish-people (Muriel Salmon, David Trout), tree-people (John Birch), flower-people (Pete Rose, Walter Lily), even meat-people (Francis Bacon, Jack Ham).

It can be a great way to while away the long winter nights. (Ah yes, season-people — Donna Summer, Robert Winters)

Birds in the Garden III

Bill Gummer

We and three immediate neighbours have had garden feeders in action for many years on Lawn Avenue near Carlingwood in Ottawa. A year may produce about 50 species seen and heard. The exciting birds include Northern Cardinals (nesting here each year, and then two or more feeding during the winter), Blue Jays (also nesting nearby, sometimes sitting on the gutter and tucking their heads down to watch my wife Bee in the kitchen), Bohemian Waxwings (most winters, but only for the time it takes 25 or more of them to strip the berries from the junipers), and hawks (the last few years we have had a Merlin, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, several American Kestrels and a Cooper's Hawk). House Finches, recently "exciting," are now about the most common winter bird.

Late in the afternoon on April 9th, 1988, Bee called me to the window. A Pine Siskin had shot into the catalpa and was hanging upside down on a branch. Had he got into my vodka? The last birds I saw acting like that were Whiskey-jacks [Gray Jays] in northern Ontario. *They* were eating exploded sourdough thrown out the night before. The siskin hung there for at least a minute, then worked around to sit still for another five minutes. It slowly sidled along the branch to the trunk, fluffed up, and froze there again. Later, four siskins appeared, and two visited the loner before going to the feeder. One came back to the tree for an obvious pep talk, sitting beside the quiet one and once hovering almost against it and in front of it. It made a pass in the air, then went off with the other three. The loner kept shaking itself. It fluttered its wings a bit, hopped to the end of the branch, and suddenly flew — 7 or 8 feet, and *down*, into the yew hedge. It worked its way into the hedge and apparently parked for the night. There was no sign of it in the morning. This bird had probably had sudden contact with a greenhouse window.

Normally, we see only American Robins take a real bath in the basin in the flower bed, but in dry spells it is very popular. American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds (both sexes), European Starlings, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, House Sparrows, Blue Jays and House Finches all use the facility, which requires constant filling and cleaning. American Goldfinches, Song and Chipping sparrows, Northern Cardinals and others drink even the dirtiest bath water, but indulge in little or no bathing. Once, a juvenile House Sparrow flew to the edge of the bath, which was unoccupied at the time, and went around and around and around the edge leaning forward and ducking its head as do most birds when bathing and going through the wing-stretching and -flopping motions of a real bath. Then it flew away. Known as a dry run, I guess.

Note: "Birds in the Garden" and "Birds in the Garden II" appeared in *Trail & Landscape* in 1982 in volume 16 numbers 4 and 5, respectively.

Macoun Field Club Rare Book Collection

Bill Gummer

Over the years the Macoun Field Club has become the owner of a number of books from a variety of sources, reaching a total of more than 500 books. This article is concerned with those books classified as rare; these volumes are carefully stored by the Canadian Museum of Nature in the library at 2086 Walkley Road, Ottawa.

At present there are 34 such books, mostly representing gifts and bequests from OFNC members. These books were examined by Roy John in late 1988, and he provided a complete listing of them, their publication source and dates, their condition, and in many cases comments on their contents. We would like OFNC members to be aware of these books and their availability for examination, and are therefore providing this brief summary of titles, authors, and publishing dates for reference.

These books are Macoun Field Club property, and are so marked. They are housed in the rare book room, which is kept locked. Anyone may request to see them, the only requirement being that one must sign in with library authorities. The books may not be taken out under these conditions, and must be examined on the spot.

In the list that follows, the books have been divided into groups based on apparent subject matter.

Birds

Bewick, T. *A History of British Birds*. London: Longman and Company, 1809.

The Birds of North America. Studer's Popular Ornithology. Montreal: A. J. Cleveland, 1881.

Michelet, Jules. *The Bird*. London: T. Nelson & Sons, 1870.

Samuels, Edward Augustus. *Our Northern and Eastern Birds*. New York: R. Worthington, 1883.

Sharpe, R. Bowdler. *Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain*. Vol. 2. London: Edward Lloyd Ltd., 1896.

Taverner, Percy A. *Birds of Eastern Canada*. Ottawa: F. A. Acland, 1922.

Taverner, Percy A. *Birds of Western Canada*. Ottawa: F. A. Acland, 1926.

Animals

Animal Tracking for Boy Scouts; Hints on Animal Tracking. Ottawa: Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association, 1924.

Shaw, Vero. *How to Choose a Dog, and How to Select a Puppy.* Manchester: "Our Dogs" Publishing Company, 1908.

Wood, The Rev. J. G. *Sketches and Anecdotes of Animal Life.* London; New York: G. Routledge, 1855.

Insects

Rennie, James. *Insect Architecture (Including Ravages, Preservation for Study, and Classification).* London: Charles Knight, 1845.

Plants

Balfour, John Hutton. *First Book of Botany: Being an Introduction to the Study of the Anatomy and Physiology of Plants.* London and Glasgow: William Collins and Sons, 1872.

Bower, Frederick Orpen. *Plant-life on Land Considered in Some of its Biological Aspects.* Cambridge, England: The University Press, 1911.

Hulme, Frederick Edward. *Familiar Wild Flowers Figured and Described.* London; New York; Toronto: Cassell, 1910.

Macoun, John. "Canadian Filiciniae." *Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada* 2, no. 4 (1884).

Macoun, John. "The Forests of Canada and Their Distribution, with Notes on the More Interesting Species." *Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada* 12, no. 4 (1894).

Robinson, Matthew. *The New Family Herbal (and Botanic Physician).* Wakefield: William Nicholson and Sons, 1920.

Stack, Frederick William. *Wildflowers Every Child Should Know . . .* New York: Doubleday, Page, 1909.

Geology, Archaeology

Buckingham, James Silk. *The Buried City of the East, Niniveh.* London: National Illustrated Library, 1851.

Marvels of Creation. Volcanoes and Their Phenomena. London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1864.

Michelet, Jules. *The Mountain.* (Trans.) London; Edinburgh; New York: T. Nelson and Sons, 1872.

White, The Rev. Gilbert. *The Natural History of Selbourne, with its Antiquities*. London: Wm. S. Orr, 1850.

Natural History, Evolution

Darwin, Charles Robert. *Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited During the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle Around the World*. . . . New York: D. Appleton, 1902.

With the same content but different title and headings:

Darwin, Charles Robert. *Voyage of a Naturalist Around the World in H.M.S. Beagle*. London: Routledge; New York: E. P. Dutton, 1905.

Huxley, Thomas H. *Man's Place in Nature, and Other Anthropological Essays*. New York: Hurst, 189[?]

General

Abbot, Charles C. *Clear Skies and Cloudy*. Philadelphia; London: J. B. Lippincott, 1899.

Allen, Francis H. *Nature's Diary*. New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1897.

Clark, Henry W. *Book of the Seven Ages: An Anthology*. London: Herbert and Daniel, 1911.

Countryman: A Quarterly Non-party Review and Miscellany of Rural Life 55, no. 4 (1958). England.

Ealand, Charles Aubrey. *The Romance of the Microscope*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott; London: Seeley, Service, 1921(?)

Plympton, George Washington. *The Aneroid Barometer*. New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1885.

Uncle John (pseud.). *The Wonders of the World*. London: Ward, Lock, 1880.

Williams, William Matthieu. *Science in Short Chapters*. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1883.

These books should be handled with care due to wear and some failing of the bindings. Some of them are not known to exist elsewhere in libraries in Canada, a fact providing additional value to the collection.

Interested club members can go directly to the museum library. We would appreciate further comments concerning the interest and value of the collection from anyone who does look at the books. Contact Roy John (226-2019) or Bill Gummer (596-1148).

Activities of the Bird Records Subcommittee for 1989

Gordon Pringle
Secretary
Bird Records Subcommittee

The Bird Records Subcommittee solicits reports, photographs or recordings that document species not on *A Birder's Checklist of Ottawa* (1985), species with fewer than five records or a species not seen for 10 years. Observations in a week not recorded on the checklist are also of interest.

Checklists are available from the club or from the Nature Canada Bookshop. Report forms are available from Gordon Pringle (224-0543). If you want help in preparing a report or if you are unsure whether or not a report is needed, contact any member of the subcommittee (*Trail & Landscape* 24 (2) April - June 1990).

The subcommittee found that the following reports were significant additions to the data presented in the checklist.

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Golden Eagle	Dec. 18, 1988	Mountain Road	T. Beck
Hermit Thrush	Dec. 18, 1988	Lac Leamy	D. St. Hilaire
Peregrine Falcon	Dec. 20, 1987	Coats Building	M. Gawn
Hawk Owl	Jan. 21, 1989	Highway 7 & Dwyer Hill Road	R. Holland
Boreal Owl	Jan. 8, 1989	Fourth Line Road, Kanata	R. Holland

The following reports were filed without a subcommittee decision because they lacked sufficient detail. They are retained as part of the record for future researchers to consider.

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Great Blue Heron	Dec. 18, 1988	Sawmill Creek	Christmas Bird Count
Peregrine Falcon	Dec. 18, 1988	Lemieux Island	Christmas Bird Count

The consideration of the following four reports was deferred to a future meeting.

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Black-legged Kittiwake	Dec. 18, 1988	Ottawa River	R. Brouillet
<i>requested more detail</i>			
Great Egret	May 8, 1989	Cedarhill Estates	S. Gawn
<i>no quorum</i>			
Franklin's Gull	Sept. 10, 1989	Deschênes Rapids	T. Beck
<i>no quorum</i>			
California Gull	Nov. 12, 1988	Cook Road dump	J. Dubois
<i>report sent for translation</i>			

The following sightings were reported in 1989 in *Trail & Landscape*, in the *Citizen*, or were reported to the club's Bird Status Line. No documentation has been received by the subcommittee.

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Pied-billed Grebe	Feb. 26, 28	Appleton	R. Holland
Great Blue Heron	Feb. 16	Greely	P. Jenness
Great Egret	April 7	Stanley Corners	T & L 23 (4)
Great Egret	Aug. 26- Sept. 29	Leggett Drive	Many observers
Snowy Egret	May 26	Lac Leamy	Status Line
Little Blue Heron	June 17	Stony Swamp	T & L 24 (1)
Cattle Egret	April 24	Carleton Golf & Yacht Club	R. Holland
Mute Swan	December	Bells Corners	<i>Citizen</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose	Oct. 4 & 8, 1988	Ottawa Beach	T & L 23 (2)
Greater White-fronted Goose	April 8, 16	Embrun	B. Di Labio, R. Brouillet
Barnacle Goose	April 21, May 11	Thurso, Masson	D. St. Hilaire
Wood Duck	Jan. 22	Manotick	B. Di Labio
Gadwall	Jan 22	Manotick	B. Di Labio
Eurasian Wigeon	Sept. 4	Britannia	T. Beck
Eurasian Wigeon	Oct. 9	Britannia	T. Hunter
Lesser Scaup	Jan. 22		T & L 23 (3)
Turkey Vulture	Nov. 19	Nepean dump	T. Beck
Osprey	April 6	Rideau River	R. Holland

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Willet	June 5	Embrun	Several observers
Willet	Aug. 27	Lochibar Bay	Status Line
Parasitic Jaeger(s)	Aug. 27	Gatineau	Status Line
Laughing Gull	June 16, 17	Remic Rapids	Several observers
Franklin's Gull(s)	June 16, 17	Remic Rapids	Several observers
Ring-billed Gull(s)	Feb. 1	Bate Island	T & L 23 (3)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	April 12	Nepean dump	B. Di Labio
Caspian Tern	July 9	Deschênes Rapids	T & L 24 (1)
Arctic Tern	June 23	Britannia	T & L 24 (1)
Arctic Tern(s)	August, September	Shirleys Bay	T. Hunter, I. Traynor
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Aug. 28		T & L 23 (3)
Tufted Titmouse	March	St. Pierre de Wakefield	A. Barker
Tufted Titmouse	Oct. 28	Britannia	B. Tate, G. Weibe, E. Thornton
Tufted Titmouse	Dec. 1989-Feb. 1990	Hampton Park	Many observers
House Wren	Jan.?		<i>Citizen</i>
Pine Warbler	April 7	Stony Swamp	M. Murphy
Bay-breasted Warbler	July 10	Gatineau Park	N. Cruikshank
Prothonotary Warbler(s)		Poltimore	T. Hunter
Worm-eating Warbler		Lac St. Germain	T. Hunter
Yellow-breasted Chat	Sept. 25, 1988	Britannia	T & L 23 (2)
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Oct. 9, 1988	Embrun	T & L 23 (2)
Lapland Longspur	May 1	Embrun	T & L 23 (4)
Yellow-headed Blackbird		Queensway & Carp Road	A. Buckingham
Orchard Oriole (immature)	May 20	Britannia	R. Holland
Orchard Oriole (adult)	May 20	Britannia	T & L 23 (4)
European Goldfinch	April 22	Chelsea	<i>Citizen</i>

The 1989 Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup

Daniel Perrier

The 1989 Fall Bird Count was held on August 27th, a beautiful, mild, sunny day, perfect for birders, those of us who like to make our observations without wet feet, umbrella in one hand and fogged binoculars in the other. Sadly, beautiful weather is rarely conducive to massive bird fallouts and few records were set. One hundred and seventy-four species were observed in the standard 50-km radius of Parliament Hill. This result approximated the averages of the previous three years: 166 species in 1988, 173 in 1987, and 175 in 1986.

The northeast section fared the best with 148 species, highlighted by those sightings coming from the Ottawa River between Masson and Baie Noire west of Plaisance. Highlights from the northeast included one Least Bittern and one Parasitic Jaeger, a gull-like bird with hawklike characteristics that gave the gulls a hard time keeping down their meals!

Other noteworthy sightings included 2 Merlins, a Stilt Sandpiper, a Wilson's Phalarope and a Great Egret from the southwest. The northwest gave us the only Blackpoll Warbler observation and the southeast, the only Grasshopper Sparrow.

I would like to thank the four sector leaders, Daniel St. Hilaire, Bernie Ladouceur, Jim Harris and Tony Beck, for their co-operation. All related they had a good time. I hope that you who read this will participate in future counts.

This year, the Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup will be held on August 26th. Contact the compiler, Daniel Perrier, if you wish to participate.

Ottawa Valley Fall Roundup Results

Species	SW	SE	NW	NE	Total
Common Loon	2			6	8
Pied-billed Grebe	12			39	51
Double-crested Cormorant	38		12	1	51
American Bittern	5	2		7	14
Least Bittern				1	1
Great Blue Heron	54	12	13	50	129
Great Egret	1				1
Green-backed Heron	17	6	8	9	40

Species	SW	SE	NW	NE	Total
Black-crowned Night-Heron	6	1	1	1	9
Brant			2		2
Canada Goose	276	4	3	10	293
Wood Duck	241	7	1	30	279
Green-winged Teal	109	41	2	3	155
American Black Duck	187	33	39	24	283
Mallard	550	786	20	112	1,468
Northern Pintail	30	10		2	42
Blue-winged Teal	287	138		18	443
Northern Shoveler	6	12		1	19
Gadwall	1	2		5	8
American Wigeon		10			10
Ring-necked Duck		2		15	17
Lesser Scaup	1	3		1	5
Common Goldeneye	5	11			16
Hooded Merganser	3	4		12	19
Common Merganser	1	2	10	27	40
Turkey Vulture	3	2		7	12
Osprey	2		1	2	5
Northern Harrier	3	4		7	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2		2	5
Cooper's Hawk			1	4	5
Northern Goshawk				1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1		1	4
Broad-winged Hawk		1		6	7
Red-tailed Hawk	3	3		5	11
American Kestrel	11	6	1	14	32
Merlin	2			1	3
Gray Partridge	9			16	25
Ruffed Grouse				10	10
Virginia Rail		3		1	4
Sora	1			1	2
Common Moorhen	3	5		22	30
American Coot				14	14
Semipalmated Plover	35	2		1	38
Killdeer	120	13	3	34	170
Greater Yellowlegs	45				45
Lesser Yellowlegs	79	28		1	108
Solitary Sandpiper	9	1	1	2	13
Willet				1	1
Spotted Sandpiper	32	23	30	4	89
Upland Sandpiper				1	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	360	13			373

Species	SW	SE	NW	NE	Total
Least Sandpiper	92	15			107
Baird's Sandpiper	3	2			5
Pectoral Sandpiper	16	1			17
Stilt Sandpiper	1				1
Short-billed Dowitcher	2				2
Common Snipe	45	6			51
American Woodcock		1		1	2
Wilson's Phalarope	1				1
Parasitic Jaeger				1	1
Bonaparte's Gull	14	2	6		22
Ring-billed Gull	10,914	287	789	646	12,636
Herring Gull	8,020	21	6	78	8,125
Great Black-backed Gull	1			1	2
Rock Dove	50	103	171	179	503
Mourning Dove	10	58	19	35	122
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1			2
Great Horned Owl		11		2	13
Barred Owl				2	2
Common Nighthawk	83	1	1	5	90
Whip-poor-will		7			7
Chimney Swift				4	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	3	2	23	40
Belted Kingfisher	29	7	10	18	64
Red-headed Woodpecker			4	1	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		3	15	19
Downy Woodpecker	17	2	6	16	41
Hairy Woodpecker	8	3	5	8	24
Northern Flicker	45	41	32	45	163
Pileated Woodpecker	9	2		3	14
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6		1		7
Eastern Wood Pewee	19	16	8	19	62
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1		1		2
Alder Flycatcher	2	5		2	9
Least Flycatcher	5		1	19	25
Eastern Phoebe	14	3	6	30	53
Great Crested Flycatcher	7	3		3	13
Eastern Kingbird	44	65	12	30	151
Horned Lark	5			2	7
Purple Martin	48	49		1	98
Tree Swallow	2,585	1,218		601	4,404
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3		14	2	19
Bank Swallow	92	17		2	111
Cliff Swallow	4	15		3	22

Species	SW	SE	NW	NE	Total
Barn Swallow	49	251	17	90	407
Blue Jay	96	113	24	173	406
American Crow	215	147	62	167	591
Common Raven	1		1	8	10
Black-capped Chickadee	217	120	60	305	702
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	9	1	72	100
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	6	20	32	82
Brown Creeper	5	6		2	13
House Wren	2	3		13	18
Winter Wren				2	2
Marsh Wren		4		6	10
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	2		4	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1		3	4
Eastern Bluebird	14	6	11	25	56
Veery	6	58	3	19	86
Gray-cheeked Thrush				1	1
Swainson's Thrush		2		16	18
Hermit Thrush		8		5	13
Wood Thrush		1		1	2
American Robin	329	146	151	165	791
Gray Catbird	22	27	17	43	109
Brown Thrasher	2			3	5
Water Pipit	1				1
Cedar Waxwing	275	148	216	79	718
European Starling	4,682	1,843	235	648	7,408
Solitary Vireo				2	2
Yellow-throated Vireo				1	1
Warbling Vireo	30	3	23	7	63
Philadelphia Vireo	9	1	2	7	19
Red-eyed Vireo	30	13	24	61	128
Tennessee Warbler	1	2		6	9
Nashville Warbler	14	1	9	30	54
Northern Parula	1	1		2	4
Yellow Warbler	14	2	1	4	21
Chestnut-sided Warbler	14		5	27	46
Magnolia Warbler	8	2	1	22	33
Cape May Warbler	2				2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	2		16	24
Yellow-rumped Warbler	45	2	1	39	87
Black-throated Green Warbler	28	4	5	38	75
Blackburnian Warbler	2	3	1	5	11
Pine Warbler	5			2	7
Bay-breasted Warbler		4		5	9

Species	SW	SE	NW	NE	Total
Blackpoll Warbler			1		1
Black-and-white Warbler	23	3	5	23	54
American Redstart	3	3	4	19	29
Ovenbird	5	13	4	16	38
Northern Waterthrush	2				2
Mourning Warbler	2				2
Common Yellowthroat	35	69	24	87	215
Wilson's Warbler	2			2	4
Canada Warbler		1	1	9	11
Scarlet Tanager	4		13	4	21
Northern Cardinal	6		2		8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	34	4	10	49	97
Indigo Bunting	2	1		2	5
Chipping Sparrow	40	13		41	94
Field Sparrow				6	6
Vesper Sparrow	6	2		1	9
Savannah Sparrow	71	74	1	52	198
Grasshopper Sparrow		1			1
Song Sparrow	134	154	36	147	471
Lincoln's Sparrow				2	2
Swamp Sparrow	10	54	1	15	80
White-throated Sparrow	11	6	6	23	46
Dark-eyed Junco				5	5
Bobolink	48	280		430	758
Red-winged Blackbird	5,092	3100	32	1503	9,727
Eastern Meadowlark	11			14	25
Common Grackle	975	39	7	264	1285
Brown-headed Cowbird	112	6	3	3	124
Northern Oriole	15	10	6	7	38
Purple Finch	11	10		17	38
House Finch	6		15		21
Red Crossbill		9			9
White-winged Crossbill		33	4	53	90
Pine Siskin				42	42
American Goldfinch	255	86	130	152	623
Evening Grosbeak				34	34
House Sparrow	187	78	105	157	527

DEADLINE: Material intended for the October – December issue must be in the Editor's hands by July 1st.

Winter Bird Sightings

Larry E. Neily

December 1989 – February 1990 Period

Ottawa suffered through one of the strangest winters in recent history. December was the coldest month, not just the coldest December, in 50 years. There were five periods of minus 20 degree C. temperatures extending two or more days, the conventional definition of a cold snap. No doubt this encouraged most late migrants, who were able, to continue southward and killed many of those that lingered. Considering the freezing weather, a surprising number of tardy birds survived to be counted on the Ottawa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Dec. 17th. The average temperature for the month was minus 16.6, nine degrees below the long-term standard. The month was also very dry, with only 57 per cent of the usual precipitation. January was six degrees warmer than normal and dull, with almost 30 per cent less sunshine than the average. Several periods of above-freezing weather loosened winter's grip enough so that a warm spell, beginning on Jan. 23rd and lasting through the 30th, brought back numbers of gulls to the river weeks earlier than usual. February was near normal in terms of sunshine but a bit warmer and 40 per cent wetter than usual.

A late Red-necked Grebe was spotted at Remic Rapids on Jan. 3rd. An injured, banded Mute Swan, possibly one of the birds seen off Cedarhill Drive last fall (?), was found south of the city Dec. 7th and taken to the Humane Society of Ottawa-Carleton. After it recovered, it was sent to live with the City of Ottawa swans.

Two Wood Ducks, rare overwintering birds, and a Hooded Merganser spent from at least Dec. 10th through the period with the usual large flock of Mallards and Black Ducks below the mill in Manotick. The last Northern Pintail was seen Dec. 10th at Manotick, where the last Gadwall, a male, was seen on a record late Dec. 25th. A male Lesser Scaup at Shirleys Bay joined the record books as only one of a few of this bird that have wintered in the area. A female Oldsquaw, also a rare overwinterer, spent the season, from at least Dec. 12th on, with the usual Common Goldeneye at Deschênes Rapids. A male and two female Barrow's Goldeneye wintered as well. A female Red-breasted Merganser, likely enticed by the warm weather, was spotted off Bate Island on Feb. 21st. A late American Coot was at Shirleys Bay on Dec. 17th.

Several Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks graced area feeders this winter, making some of the regulars a bit nervous. Northern Goshawks were seen occasionally through the season, but remain our least common accipiter. Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks were present in moderate numbers throughout the winter in the farmland surrounding Ottawa. A Golden Eagle

was seen along the escarpment near the Ramsey Lake Road on Feb. 12th. Several American Kestrels braved the winter here.

A *tundrius* race Peregrine Falcon hung out at the Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, and the Terrasses de la Chaudière, Hull, throughout the period. All you starling lovers out there will be dismayed to learn that our resident peregrine views starlings as fair game, though surely *not* a gourmet meal. A pale light-phase Gyrfalcon was observed near the corner of Frank Kenny and French Hill roads on Feb. 11th. A male Merlin was seen from Cedarview Road just north of Strandherd on Feb. 10th.

Gray Partridge, though suffering from galloping megalopolis, were still seen from time to time through the cold months. They are easier to find at this time of year because the snow cover often forces them to leave their protective concealment and contrasts with their plumage. They can still be found regularly in scrubby fields around some developed areas, as well as in the surrounding farmland. But as the fields disappear, so too do the partridge. A Common Snipe stayed along Promenade Lakeview in Aylmer most of the winter, the open ditches allowing it to survive through at least late February.

The strange weather contributed to a phenomenon unheard of previously in Ottawa. Except for a few really cold days when they seemed to disappear, some gulls were here virtually all winter. Winter gulls in Ottawa divide their time between the river and the dumps. At the Nepean dump on Dec. 2nd there were 25 Glaucous, 5 Iceland, and 125 Great Black-backed gulls and a strange gull that was described as looking like a dark Herring Gull with red legs (speculation suggested Vega Gull, caution suggested "unknown"). On Jan. 9th, both an Iceland and a first winter Thayer's gull were found, a first January record for the latter.

The unseasonably warm spell in late January brought back larger numbers of gulls to the Ottawa River. On the 27th, 50 Great Black-backed, 25 Herring, 1 Iceland and 6 Glaucous gulls were found near Bate Island, and on the 28th the numbers soared to over 200 gulls, with at least 150 Great Black-backed and 14 Glaucous gulls. On the 30th, a season high of 131 Herring Gulls was seen. By Feb. 8th, there were still 62 Great Black-backed, 24 Herring, and 6 Glaucous gulls as well as the first 6 Ring-billed gulls of the season near Bate Island. Exceptional, though just outside the Ottawa checklist area, was a Razorbill stranded on the ice at Lake Doré Dec. 2nd and 3rd. A Golden Eagle flew over the lake on the 3rd but ignored the alcid.

Snowy Owls were faithful to their usual haunts all winter. Shea Road just south of Fallowfield, on Greenbank Road between Fallowfield and Knoxdale roads, Wall Road, Dunning and Giroux roads, Eagleson Road, at the junction of Highway 17 and White Lake Road near Arnprior, and the south side of Armstrong Road east of Limebank Road were a few locations favoured. A Northern Hawk Owl put in a brief appearance for a lucky few on Boucher Road

north of Aylmer on Feb. 11th. Barred Owls roosted near both the Pink Road and Jack Pine Trail feeders this winter. A Long-eared Owl winter roosting area near Russell was located, and up to seven birds were seen at a time, two to three regularly. Short-eared Owls were well represented in one of their old haunts this winter, with up to ten birds present during February. There was a Saw-whet Owl at the Conroy Pit feeder on the Dec. 17th CBC.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Manotick repeatedly, but irregularly, from Dec. 14th through the period. One of the very few previous wintering members of this species also stayed in Manotick. A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen repeatedly through the winter at the Jack Pine Trail, having thoroughly worked over a dead tree within 50 feet of the main feeding station. The burn site on the Lac des Loups Road north of Quyon had a Three-Toed Woodpecker and at least two Black-backed Woodpeckers that were seen at various times through the winter. Another Black-backed Woodpecker was seen in the MacLaren's Landing area.

Migrating Horned Larks began augmenting the small numbers of wintering birds in mid-February and were passing *en masse* by month's end. Gray Jays, extremely rare winter visitors south of the Gatineau Hills, were represented here by no less than three birds. Birds were seen irregularly at the Conroy Pit feeder, at 52 - 2nd Avenue west of Breckenridge along the Ottawa River, and in the Crescent and Opal areas of Aylmer through most of the season.

Northern Ravens appear to be on the increase south of the Gatineaus, their traditional stronghold. A record number were found on the CBC this season. A Boreal Chickadee was a regular all winter at the Pink Road feeder. A Tufted Titmouse was present throughout the period at Hampton Park; its whistled song was noted more often as the days grew longer.

A Carolina Wren was seen in Manordale on Dec. 9th. Another was present on Promenade Lakeview in Aylmer through the season, where one had spent the winter two years ago. A Winter Wren was seen on the CBC Dec. 17th in Britannia. The Central Experimental Farm's Arboretum was graced by a Townsend's Solitaire from at least Dec. 27th through the period. It was usually seen feeding on the ornamental crab apple trees. The usual few American Robins stoically stayed with us all winter. Mockingbird numbers were down, with one at Mud Lake on Dec. 24th the only report.

Bohemian Waxwings were common over the entire area this winter. A few Cedar Waxwings were also seen, often with the Bohemians. These delicately beautiful creatures graced many an ornamental crab apple or berry tree repeatedly through the season. Northern Shrikes, sprinkled more lightly than normal over the area, were less in evidence as the season wore on, perhaps moving north with the arrival of the warm temperatures.

A Yellow-throated Warbler partook of a suet ball in Manotick from Nov 21st to Dec. 9th. It was seen to survive one attack from a Cooper's Hawk on Dec. 4th. If the hawk failed to make a meal of it, the freezing cold probably took care

of it, as it was long after it should have been in the deep south. A few hardy Song Sparrows normally winter in the area. One seen at a feeder Feb. 25th in Aylmer was, no doubt, a wintering bird. A Lapland Longspur was found on the CBC and again in January near Carp, and another two were found both Feb. 4th and 25th at the Nepean dump. Up to seven were seen at the corner of Shea and Flewellyn roads in late December and early January with the large flock of Snow Buntings there; Horned Larks and Gray Partridge were often found with them as well.

Pine Siskins, Evening and Pine grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills and Common Redpolls were seen regularly through the winter, especially in the Gatineaus. A Hoary Redpoll was found along the Ramsey Lake Road with a flock of Common Redpolls on Feb 18th. Purple Finches, in contrast to most of the finch family, were nearly absent this winter, a vanishing act they pull every so many years. House Finch numbers have almost doubled again this year, as they continue to expand their range. Red Crossbills were scarce this winter. The easiest places to find them were along the Steele Line Road, at the burn site north of Quyon, and along Ramsey Lake Road.

Acknowledgements: Thanks for much of the preceding information goes to the "informants" of the Bird Status Line and several of the leading local birders. Special thanks to Tony Beck, Bob Bracken, Bruce Di Labio, Roy John, Bernie Ladouceur, Daniel St. Hilaire and the gentleman at Environment Canada who kindly gave me a run-down on the winter weather.

This is a Real Call for Help for Our Club!

Publications Committee regrets to announce the resignation of Elizabeth Morton as editor of *Trail & Landscape* at the end of the current volume. We are now faced with the urgent task of assembling a strong editorial team to cover the following aspects of producing *Trail & Landscape*: editing, writing, reporting, word processing and layout. A successful conclusion to our search is necessary for *Trail & Landscape* to continue in its present form.

The editorial responsibility involves a lot of time; although the club provides certain honoraria and recently purchased desktop publishing equipment, the effort remains largely voluntary. We need to learn of individuals, preferably with a knowledge of natural history, interested in taking on the responsibility as quickly as possible, and ask that names be given to one of the following: Joyce Reddoch (749-5363), Peter Hall (733-0698) or Bill Gummer (596-1148).

White Fish Lake No More

Jack Holliday

When the route left King's Highway 17 near Glasgow Station, the road to White Fish Lake was through Burnstown, then Calabogie. A wonderful road it was, too. Hardly 100 metres of straight road in 50 kilometres of up, then down, 90 degree turn right, 90 degree turn left, left again and down, then up, etc., for a couple of hours. There was barely room for cars to pass; one car usually pulled over to the side and stopped to allow the other, driver's head out the window, to squeeze by.

And then there were the directions. "Turn left at the big dead pine or you'll end up in the swamp and have to back up." "Turn right at the log barn. There's a sign on the fence post." We never knew where the sign came from, or who put it there. Carefully lettered, its paint fading, it was nailed, a little askew, to a fence post. You had to stop, get out, and walk over to it to read it properly. It read, "The Gate to God's Country." Usually, by the time we reached "God's Country," the roller-coaster ride had made me car sick, and I couldn't properly appreciate why God had chosen this particular area.

"White Fish Lake" was aptly named: there were whitefish in it. On any summer day you could see them, white "belly" up, floating gently, or cast ashore by the waves, rapidly rotting in the sun. Big fish, 5 or 6 pounds each, they were, dying, slowly, one or two a day, for years. Sometimes we'd find one not yet dead, struggling weakly near the surface. A visual examination revealed nothing. The fish appeared to be perfect, except that they were dead.

The Great Blue Herons flew grandly along the shores evaluating the corpses. When the fish had putrefied enough to come apart easily, the herons, with extended "landing gear" reaching down, folded their great wings and staggered to a landing alongside. They'd gorge on the rotting fish until they were full, then doze quietly, in place, until the meal was digested, and then feed again.

No other species of fish seemed to be affected by what killed the Whitefish, although the numbers of Small-mouth Bass decreased. But the Large-mouth Bass multiplied, in proportion, and became the most numerous species.

In retrospect, I realize that the sediments from the graphite mill probably silted the lake bottom and destroyed the habitat for the snails, aquatic larvae, etc., on which Whitefish feed.

Onetime source of most of the world's finest graphite, Black Donald Mine was situated on the lake. In the search for graphite, following the seam, the miners tunnelled hundreds of metres out under the lake. One Sunday (luckily, no one

was in the mine), with a mighty roar, the tunnel collapsed and the mine filled with water.

Near the mine shafthouse was the mill, where the ore was crushed and the graphite separated from the dross. The tailings, in a wet slurry, was dumped along the shore of the lake. Much of the "fines" were suspended, for a time, in the lake water and drifted around until they gradually sank to the bottom. This fine layer seemed to act as a fertilizer, and the lake bottom became a thick mat of aquatic plants. Perch and sunfish thrived in the weed beds and the numbers of Large-mouth Bass, which fed on them, also increased remarkably. Small-mouth Bass numbers decreased until it was a rarity to catch one. The Whitefish ceased to be.

Shortly after World War II, the mine and mill closed for good and Ontario Hydro built a new dam on the Madawaska River that flooded the whole area under 25 m of water. A new lake was formed, and it was named Centennial Lake. A beautiful lake it is, too. White Fish Lake and the fish that gave it its name are no longer extant, except in the memories of a few.

A nice Sunday drive from Ottawa, Centennial Lake in the Madawaska Highlands is well worth a visit. The road through Calabogie is still interesting, though a pale shadow of its "roller-coaster" days.

Some still consider this to be "God's Country."

Note: Maps of the period (the 1930s) showed both "White Fish Lake" and "Whitefish Lake."

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee

For further information,
call the club number (722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least*

ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing.

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM: *Club members must show their membership cards to gain access to the Canadian Museum of Nature for club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.*

Wednesday

4 July

10:00 a.m.

to

3:00 p.m.

**MID-WEEK OUTING TO THE MER BLEUE
BOARDWALK**

Leader: Fenja Brodo

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard and Smyth Road
This will be a general interest walk with some focus on insects that live in and around water. Bring a lunch and a drink.

Sunday

8 July

9:30 a.m.

BUTTERFLY HABITATS

Leader: Peter Hall (733-0698)

Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance, Central Experimental Farm, one block west of the Irving Place – Maple Lane stop light on Carling Avenue

This all-day outing will provide an opportunity to observe butterflies in several different habitats and to examine their close relationship with various species of plants essential to particular stages of their life cycle. Bring a lunch and a butterfly net if you have one.

Sunday

29 July

7:00 a.m.

**BIRDING TOUR OF THE EASTERN SEWAGE
LAGOONS**

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard and Smyth Road
Participants will visit several sewage lagoons east of Ottawa to observe migrating shorebirds and interesting species of breeding waterfowl.

August

Date and
time to be
decided

NIGHT-FLYING MOTHS IN AUGUST

Leader: Don Lafontaine

This will be an evening excursion in a local area starting at about 7:00 p.m. some time in August when the weather is favourable. Don will attract a variety of moths to a sheet with a light and identify them. If you are interested please register by the end of July with the club number (722-3050 after 10 a.m.) and give your name and phone number. You will be informed of the date and meeting place when they have been decided.

- Sunday
12 August
8:00 a.m.
to
6:00 p.m.
- BUS TRIP: MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS**
Leader: To be decided
Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance,
Wellington Street
Cost: \$10.00 (see Registered Bus Trips for details)
Come and see what's growing at this time of year at these
world-famous botanical gardens.
- Saturday
18 August
9:00 a.m.
- GENERAL INTEREST WALK**
Leader: Henri Goulet
Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance, Central
Experimental Farm, one block west of the Irving Place
– Maple Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue
Participants will visit a local area to examine the insect in-
habitants, especially spiders. This half-day outing will be
limited to the first 25 people to register with the club num-
ber (722-3050 after 10 a.m.). Bring a magnifying glass and a
snack.
- Saturday
25 August
7:30 a.m.
- LATE SUMMER BIRDS**
Leader: Roy John
Meet: Britannia Drive-in Theatre, Carling Avenue
Bring a snack and binoculars for this half-day outing.
- Sunday
26 August
- FALL BIRD COUNT**
Compiler: Daniel Perrier (746-6716)
Participate in the annual count of the fall bird population in
the Ottawa District (a 50-km radius of Parliament Hill). For
details phone the compiler.
- Date and
time to be
decided
- MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP**
Leader: Jim Ginns
Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington
Street
This outing will be limited to 25 people. Please register
before September 18th by phoning the club number (722-
3050 after 10 a.m.) and leaving your name and phone num-
ber. When a date and location have been decided, you will
be notified.
- Saturday
8 September
9:00 a.m.
- ASTERS AND GOLDENRODS**
Leader: Ellaine Dickson
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the
parking lot at Richmond Road and Assaly Road
Come and learn to identify the many goldenrods and asters.
Bring a snack for this ever popular half-day outing. Dress
according to the weather.

- Sunday**
9 September
9:00 a.m.
- GEOLOGY TRIP TO GATINEAU PARK**
Leader: Bruce Summers
Meet: Westgate Shopping Centre, Carling Avenue and Merivale Road, southeast corner of the parking lot
 This is your opportunity to learn something about the geology of this very interesting area. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear.
- Sunday**
9 September
- TENTH ANNUAL SEEDATHON**
 Support the OFNC winter bird feeding operations by sponsoring a birder on the annual seedathon. Pledges may be sent to Seedathon, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5.
- Sunday**
16 September
8:00 a.m.
to
4:00 p.m.
- ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO CARILLON PROVINCIAL PARK**
Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington Street
Cost: \$7.00 (see Registered Bus Trips for details)
 Carillon Provincial Park, on the banks of the Ottawa River, is a new site for our annual picnic. There are nature walks and a 3.2-km hiking trail for the more energetic members. Bring your lunch and binoculars and dress according to the weather. As usual, cheddar cheese, apples and Bill's birthday cake will be provided.
- Sunday**
23 September
8:00 a.m.
- FALL BIRDING ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER**
Leader: Tony Beck
Meet: Britannia Drive-in Theatre, Carling Avenue
 See ducks and shorebirds along the Ottawa River on this half-day outing. Bring a snack, binoculars and waterproof footwear.
- Saturday**
29 September
8:00 a.m.
- WATERFOWL FOR BEGINNERS**
Leader: Colin Gaskell (728-4582)
Meet: Entrance gate of the Britannia Filtration Plant (Bus no. 18 stops here)
 An excellent opportunity to learn to identify a variety of diving and surface-feeding ducks. Participants may expect to see Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, two of the most beautiful species. Bring a snack for this half-day outing.

Tuesday
11 September
8:00 p.m.

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT**

Meet: Salon, Canadian Museum of Nature (formerly
National Museum of Natural Sciences), Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets

Admission: At least one natural history slide or a 50-cent
donation to the Alfred Bog Fund

This popular annual event will provide an excellent chance
to share your favourite natural history slides and reminiscen-
ces of trips with fellow members. Any number of slides up
to 15 will be welcome, and up to 15 minutes will be allotted
for each presentation. Those bringing the mandatory one
slide need not speak if they do not wish to do so. Those
bringing more than one or two slides should contact
Catherine O'Keefe (745-4441) to pre-arrange their presen-
tations.

Sunday
7 October
9:00 a.m.
to
4:00 p.m.

AUTUMN COLOURS BUS TRIP

Leaders: Ellaine Dickson and Aileen Mason

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance,
Wellington Street

Cost: \$8.00 (see Registered Bus Trips for details)

Enjoy a scenic drive through the Outaouais region on the
way to the Forest Educative Centre at Lac-la-Blanche.
There will be some emphasis on tree identification along
the trail system. Crisp air, a leisurely pace and the splen-
dour of autumn leaves will be the order of the day. Bring a
lunch and dress warmly.

Tuesday
9 October
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

Speaker: To be announced

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature (formerly
National Museum of Natural Sciences), Metcalfe and
McLeod Streets

Saturday
20 October
9:00 a.m.

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE
OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB ON MOUNT
PAKENHAM**

Meet: Booth and Albert Streets, southwest corner of the
parking lot

Enjoy a walk on the attractive ski trails on top of Mount
Pakenham. Bring a lunch to eat by a small lake. Transport
by car pool. For more information call Bill Grant (820-
0697).

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News Supplement to TRAIL & LANDSCAPE Volume 24 No. 3 Summer 1990

The GREEN LINE

UPDATE ON LEITRIM WETLANDS

In the Spring 1990 issue of Trail & Landscape, Albert Dugal described the Leitrim Wetland ecosystem in Gloucester in the first of a series of articles.

Albert Dugal and the OFNC urged MNR to perform a study of the area. When they finally relented, in September 1989, the MNR classified the Leitrim Wetland as Class 1.

In November 1989, just before the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton was to approve Gloucester OP Amendment #10, the MNR stated its official objection and said it would only withdraw the objection if provision was made in the amendment for protecting the wetland.

We don't know exactly what happened next, but in January 1990, MNR reversed its position and told regional government that although it disapproved of the amendment, it would not carry its objection to the Ontario Municipal Board.

On April 24, 1990, the Regional Planning Committee reviewed Gloucester Official Plan Amendment #10. Over three hours of the meeting were spent by the Committee listening to reasoned, impassioned and persuasive arguments from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and many other groups and individuals who universally expressed the need to save this wetland. The Planning Committee was patronizing and not overly polite. They adopted the Gloucester plan

without an iota of change to the environmental component, in fact expressing their contempt for those who would arrive at the eleventh hour with irrelevant information and try to scuttle two years of planning.

Several days later, four environmental groups including the OFNC, one community group and one individual - Albert Dugal - separately requested referral of the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board. Regional Planning Department evaluated the requests carefully and wrote a report to Planning Committee supporting their recommendation that the matter be referred to the OMB. But when the Planning Committee met on June 12, they appeared furious at being challenged on the issue of Leitrim and took the decision to declare the requests "frivolous, vexatious, or made for the purpose of delay". On grounds supplied by the developer's lawyer, they have refused to refer the matter to the OMB, and in doing so have attempted to strip us of our legitimate right to appeal.

Regional Council met the next day and supported their decision, basically saying they had followed the process to the letter and since the MNR had no objection, environmental groups had no business intervening. The problem is that the value of the land has greatly increased, and a great deal of money has been spent by politically powerful developers.

So what do we do now? The Minister of the Environment has been asked to

designate the project under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act. The Ministry has not yet replied.

We could also seek judicial review of Regional Council's decision. Legal experts assure us that we have an excellent case and Ecovision, a new local environmental coalition, is prepared to lead the way in bringing the case to divisional court.

What we are actually doing may surprise you. The OFNC, Albert Dugal and several other groups have been meeting with Tartan Homes, the lead developer in the project, to discuss ways that the wetland can be protected while permitting some form of development in the area. This will be based on study and analysis of the hydrogeology of the entire watershed. This kind of integrated planning, with business and environmental interests considered together is unheard of in Ontario and could be the beginning of a new era in planning. We are optimistic about the process although there have been a few problems caused by paranoia and mutual suspicion! The OFNC has been represented by Heidi Klein and Jane Topping, in addition to Albert Dugal and Joyce Reddoch as individuals.

The past five years has seen a rapid shift toward public environmental consciousness, and business has been listening. It is ironic that governments at all levels still resist making the environmental choice when the wrong choice is right for business. We'll keep you posted...

News In Brief

Gloucester Official Plan

On August 1, 1990 at 1400 Blair Place, the draft Official Plan of the City will be open for comments and suggestions for one evening meeting only. Gloucester believes in Public

Participation to the extent of the law, so you'd better get to the one (1) meeting they're planning to hold!

Conroy Pit Wetland

A local resident found the beaver dams destroyed and 3 beavers apparently beaten to death. Please call Mike Murphy, at 727-1739, if you want to help get the NCC doing their job protecting our property.

The OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Sun 9:00

Sun 9:00

Sun 10:00

Sun 10:00

Sun 10:00

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GOLF COURSE DEVELOPER UP THE CREEK by M. Murphy

The Constance Creek Wetlands area consists of 1200 acres of eight different wetland types, and is classified as "Class 1", the highest possible rating under the **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources** evaluation system. It possesses great natural and aesthetic value but the **R.J. Nicol Construction** company sees dollars instead and has almost completed construction of a golf course adjacent to the Creek. A 39-lot subdivision is to follow.

Pat Nicol, a vice president in the company, claims that the project is actually "enhancing the wetlands". However, even the developer's own environmental study, undertaken by **P.D. Niblett Associates** in July 1989, recommended modifications to the layout of fairways and the landscaping of slopes to prevent erosion of soil into the creek. Critics of the report are not convinced that the creek and the wetlands would be protected from fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide and fungicide runoff from the golf course.

Citizens of West-Carleton organized the **Wetlands Preservation Group** in July 1989 and they have been fighting the developer and the "environmentally hostile" **Township of West Carleton** ever since. In a typical statement, one councillor ventured the opinion that the province is wasting money protecting "wetlands that will dry up in 50 years anyway".

The developer has had very good support for the project from the Township and from some local residents since hope has been raised that such a project will bring jobs and money into the area. Accordingly, the Township passed zoning amendments to allow outdoor recreation use and a subdivision on the Class 1 Wetland. The **Wetlands Preservation Group** were unable to halt the rezoning at the municipal level, even though citizens opposed to the project were so numerous that the public meeting had to be moved to a larger hall.

Help came from a surprising source, the **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**, who laid charges under the *Canada Fisheries Act* in early June of 1989 because fill was added to the shoreline of the creek, altering fish habitat. The *Canada Fisheries Act* is administered in Ontario by the OMNR.

Encouraged by this support, Tom Wallace, a local citizen, objected to the rezoning of the uplands portion of the land parcel and requested that the West Carleton rezoning bylaw be reviewed by the **Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)**. The **Wetlands Preservation Group** waited until the Township "rammed through" a zoning amendment on the wetland portion of the site, upon which the **WPG** then requested an **OMB** hearing. At a preliminary hearing, the **OMB** decided to hear the two appeals jointly, a welcome departure from the usual piecemeal procedure. The **Carp** hearings took place in installments totalling three and 1/2 weeks. The **WPG** was represented by lawyer Rick Lindgren, of the **Canadian Environmental Law Association**

(**CELA**). Mr. Lindgren brought dedication, inspiration and expertise to the case. **CELA** is funded through the legal aid system of Ontario, which made a considerable contribution to the enterprise since the **WPG** would otherwise have had great difficulty affording legal counsel.

Tom Wallace and **WPG** had also appealed to Jim Bradley, the **Ontario Minister of the Environment** to designate the project subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The response was that on March 21, 1990, after two weeks of **OMB** hearings had already taken place, an **Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee** met with all parties concerned to gather information to advise the **Minister of the Environment** whether the "Eagle Creek Golf Course" project should require his approval under the *Environmental Assessment Act of Ontario*.

In April, the **Advisory Committee** sent a letter to all groups and individuals who had appeared at their hearing, saying they would defer their report to the Minister until the **OMB** rendered its judgement on the wetland zoning bylaw. At that time, based on what environmental issues remain unresolved, the **Minister of the Environment** may decide that a provincial *Environmental Assessment* should be prepared and reviewed by an **Environmental Assessment Board**.

In any case, that a developer could proceed without penalty to destroy the shoreline of a class 1 wetland without zoning approval points out all too clearly that we need wetland legislation with "teeth". Unfortunately, the Ontario government has no such legislation, only a "draft" policy statement on wetlands which hasn't moved an inch toward formal adoption since it was circulated to agencies and environmental groups. These groups and individuals started an avalanche of responses which have apparently buried **OMNR** policy staff. The revised document is forever "imminent" for re-release.

Meanwhile, the Ontario government has begun tentative steps to implement "*Project X*", an inner cabinet initiative to "streamline the development approval process", which would completely rewrite the *Municipal Planning Act*, removing the requirement for provincial approval of Official Plans and - incidentally - our rights as citizens to appeal land use decisions to the province. The revised *Municipal Planning Act* would replace the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act* and other statutes the provincial government apparently finds troublesome and overly confining. Fortunately, the **Federation of Ontario Naturalists** obtained a "leaked" briefing document which drew howls of protest from environmentalists.

The **OMB** decision on the Eagle Creek development is imminent. Whatever their decision, we owe many thanks to the **Wetlands Preservation Group**, whose members have dedicated months to oppose the political and development interests who have ignored the will of the people, common sense and the law in their pursuit of profit.